



SACHI A. HAMAI
Interim Chief Executive Officer

County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

June 23, 2015

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To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
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From: Sachi A. Hamai 
Interim Chief Executive Officer

WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE ON NEW ROUND OF BASE CLOSURES ARE PROHIBITED IN DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION LEGISLATION (H.R. 1735)

This memorandum is to inform the Board that the Senate and House both have passed Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2016 defense authorization legislation (H.R. 1735), which includes language which prohibits a new round of Base Realignment and Closures (BRAC). The Senate passed its FFY 2016 defense authorization bill on June 18, 2015, and the House passed its version on May 15, 2015.

The Federal government uses the BRAC process to realign or close military installations. Without a new BRAC round, the Los Angeles Air Force Base (LAAFB) and its Space and Missile Systems Center would not be at risk of being closed. Based on the policy in the County's Federal Legislative Agenda to oppose proposals which would result in the downsizing or closure of the LAAFB and other military installations in California, the County's Washington, D.C. advocates have been supporting the inclusion of language to prohibit a new BRAC round in the FFY 2016 defense authorization bill.

The President's proposed budgets for FFY 2016 and the three previous fiscal years have included a request for a new BRAC round. The Congress rejected requests for new BRAC rounds in its defense authorization bills for FFYs 2013, 2014, and 2015. Therefore, if enacted, the FFY 2016 defense authorization bill would mark the fourth consecutive year in which Congress blocked a new BRAC round.

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Each Supervisor
June 23, 2015
Page 2

Legislative Outlook

It is all but certain that the final enacted version of the FFY 2016 defense authorization bill (H.R. 1735) will include language prohibiting a new BRAC round. The Senate and House-passed versions both include a prohibition, and the inclusion of such language will not prompt the President's veto of the defense authorization bill.

We will continue to keep you advised.

SAH:JJ:MR
MT:ma

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist